

Subject: downtown, stay safe

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happening this week

Kristina Wong begins three nights and a day's worth of her hilarious solo performance

[The Wong Street Journal](#) at REDCAT from **Thursday 11/12 – Sunday 11/15**.

Downtown's beloved summer concert block Grand Performances launches their *Free Fall Film* series with

[500 Days of Summer at Cal Plaza](#) this **Thursday 11/12 7pm**.

Find out what else is in the teaches of

[Peaches](#) as the acclaimed badass singer/performer brings her wild style to The Regent on **Friday 11/13 8:30pm**.

Gallery show openings you should visit on

Saturday 11/14 include: Mattea Perrotta at

[MAMA Gallery](#) (Arts District, **4–7pm**), Chris Finley at [Chimento](#) (The Flats, **5–8pm**), Jeremy Everett at [Wilding](#)

[Cran](#) (Arts District,

6–8pm),

Kismetdipity at the

[Spring Arts Collective](#) (Historic Core, **6–9pm**), and Gusmano Cesaretti at

[These Days](#) (Historic Core).

One more for your gallery hop:

[Simone Forti's solo show](#) opens at The Box on **Saturday 11/14** with a performance by the acclaimed choreographer/artist at **8pm**.

Legendary rocker, poet, and art spirit

[Patti Smith reads](#) from her new book and talks to Jonathan Lethem on **Monday 11/16 7:30pm** at the Orpheum Theatre. Sold out, but that's what Craigslist is for.

Find

more local events and sort them by neighborhood at calendar.getdowntown.la.

Broadway's beautiful Orpheum Theatre hosts Patti Smith in conversation and reading.

recommended internet

Need an hour of zen? [Consider The Broad](#).

Getty Center welcomes the [performance art of salad-making](#).

From the first-ever Ralph's at 6th/Spring to a Whole Foods today, [a history of the DTLA grocery store](#).

LA's Judith Baca becomes [first muralist to win](#) a United States Artists grant.

A silly, advertorial-ish, but sorta sweet take on a dad/travel writer who's making the case to [bring your kids on a visit Downtown](#).

Inhale, exhale, be amongst the lights in Yayoi Kusama's installation at The Broad.
Then go back to work. (GIF via [KPCC](#))

thoughts n feelings

One of the most popular ways visitors stay Downtown is through Airbnb, the list-your-own-lodging home-sharing site. As Airbnb users ourselves, we've thoroughly enjoyed the luxury of playing like locals, having an apartment to temporarily call our own while traveling. When out of town guests come visit us, but want more space than our own homes can provide, we generally put them up in Airbnbs as a more

affordable, more Downtown authentic option than most hotels. But Airbnb is coming under increased controversy. Most of the backlash is around gentrification issues. In cities all over, people are snatching up rentals just to use them as an Airbnb listing, artificially driving up the rental market, turning homes into hotels. But this week, our eyes were opened to an entirely new pitfall – its liability. LA writer Zak Stone released [a powerful article on Airbnb and the sharing economy at large](#) in the wake of his father's death, which occurred during his family's Airbnb stay. It was truly a freak accident; very very few people have ever died at one of the site's rentals. But the incident and Zak's investigation that followed reveal how little Airbnb does to stop negligence and ensure the listings are safe places to stay. Their M.O. is to get as many listings as possible – quantity over quality – under the guise of good hospitality. Yes, that's where Airbnb's ratings system comes in, but it's easy for a made bed and a kitchen and a home to seem great, until it's not at all. Anything can of course happen anywhere. But if Airbnb claims, "hospitality is both who we are and what we do," it needs to take better steps to ensure that listed homes are safe places to prevent tragedies like Zak's father's. •

Downtown ArtWalk is this Thursday night. Prior to the last event, we shared some of the local community's sentiments about the monthly gathering. The response was impressive – frankly, it was the first time since starting this email correspondence that many people spoke to us about one thing we'd written. Interestingly, the comments were on all sides. Several spoke in strong support of ArtWalk, and they have good reason to. With a shrinking gallery scene in the Historic Core, ArtWalk is a crucial reminder of the galleries and artists's spaces that are still here, several of which only open their doors to the public on the second Thursday of the month event. Beyond the night of, ArtWalk also supports artists and educates visitors through organized mural tours and gallery crawls, and has been an instrumental tool for local artists to sell their works. But others shared a different outlook. They questioned why it has become such an uncontrolled free-for-all for sidewalk vending and panhandling. One person said they felt that ArtWalk hasn't made good on their promise to move the event more towards daytime hours, in hopes of alleviating some of the night time nuisances that it causes. But the most popular complaints were all related to the past – past leadership issues, past community relations woes, and one past tragedy. There are some understandable inconveniences about ArtWalk, but the past is in the past. It's important that we as a community look at Downtown ArtWalk with a fresh pair of eyes and see it for the progress it's making today. Very few events Downtown have lasted for over a decade, particularly a monthly occurrence, but ArtWalk has triumphantly remained. We encourage locals to come to ArtWalk this Thursday, primarily along Spring and Main Streets in the Historic Core, and share your own thoughts and feelings. •

Artists of all kinds gather for Downtown ArtWalk the second Thursday of every month
(image via [Historic Core](#))

final thought:

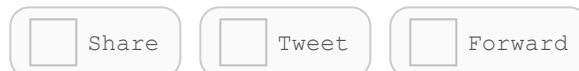
Big news! The next issue of *Get Down Town* launches on December 2! Join us for our Issue 2 Launch celebration at Clifton's Cafeteria on **Wednesday 12/2 8-11pm**.

We look forward to sharing great stories, photos, illustrations, and a season's worth of Downtown LA arts events with you.

moment of gratitude goes to the [Broadway Arts Tower](#), Broadway's first new creative offices in the historic Schulte United Building at 529 S Broadway. Join Blankspaces and Atelier Management in calling the building home for your office, studio space, or showroom needs. Plus, visit artist Dave Lovejoy's window mural at building's rear along Lindley Place.

Yesssss it's actually chilly outside,

Ari Simon
Phoebe Unter
Ian Gabriel
and the GDT gang



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